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MESSAGES OF PRIDE & LOVE LEFT ON RASHFORD MURAL

An artist repaired the mural of England striker which was vandalised after he missed a penalty in the Euro final

YOU ARE OUR ROLE MODEL, BROTHER, SON...

Hundreds of hand-written messages of support and respect have been left on Rashford's mural. The mural was drawn after he helped feed Britain's most vulnerable children during the pandemic. The artist girl, who covered up the graffiti on Rashford's mural wrote: hero, conquerer, role model, adored, brother, son and soon public too joined in with messages.

'I WILL NEVER APOLOGISE FOR WHO I AM'

- After receiving racial abuse, Rashford tweeted, "Final. 55 years. 1 penalty. History. All I can say is sorry. I wish it had gone different."
- "I can take critique of my performance all day long, my penalty was not good enough, it should have gone in but I will never apologise for who I am and where I came from," he said.

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NUMBER OF ENGLAND CAPS FOR MARCUS RASHFORD

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

K'taka, TN must sort out dam issue: Union Minister

Says Centre has to be impartial, do justice to all stakeholders

RAMU PATIL @ Bengaluru

AS pressure is mounting on leaders of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over the Mekedatu dam project across Cauvery river on the Karnataka side of the border, the Centre wants both states to sit together and resolve issues — a step that Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa had initiated on July 3 through a letter to his Tamil Nadu counterpart MK Stalin, seeking cooperation and proposing a bilateral meeting. But Yediyurappa's initiative failed to evoke the expected results as Stalin urged the Karnataka CM not to go ahead with the project.

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Tuesday told *The New Indian Express*, "All such issues have to be ultimately resolved by holding discussions. Now, we can do it with conviction, otherwise the next generation has to do it under compulsion."

A day after Stalin held an all-party meeting that passed a resolution urging the Centre not to accord clearances to the project, Yediyurappa on Tuesday asserted that Karnataka has every right to go ahead with it. Karnataka has clarified that the ₹9,000-crore project is a drinking water and power generation scheme that will not have any impact on releasing TN's share of 192 tmcft of water in a normal year. The State has tried to allay concerns expressed by TN, which is opposing the project on the grounds that it would affect its farmers. A delegation from Tamil Nadu had met Shekhawat recently, expressing these concerns. P7

Mekedatu project our prerogative, says BSY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister BS Yediyurappa on Tuesday insisted that the Mekedatu project is Karnataka's prerogative and it will be implemented without a doubt. During a meeting with Union Water Resources Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, key irrigation projects of Karnataka were discussed for quicker clearances from the Centre, he added.

On the Tamil Nadu government's objection to the Mekedatu project, he said, "We have every right and we are going to start the work. In the coming days, we are going to complete all the projects as Shekhawat assured us that he will help resolve issues with the Centre on clearing the projects."

Yettinahole, Upper Bhadra, Upper Krishna and Kalasa-Banduri projects too were discussed during the meeting with Shekhawat, he added.

Minister for Law and Parliamentary affairs and Home Basavaraj Bommai told TNIE that the State is waiting for a clearance from the Cauvery Water Monitoring Board to proceed with the Mekedatu project. "We have submitted a Detailed Project Report to the Central Water Commission (CWC), which in turn has referred it to the Cauvery Water Monitoring Board. We urge the Centre to give us CWC and environmental clearances to go ahead," he said.

The Upper Bhadra Project has already received environmental and investment clearances and is one step away from being recognised as a national project.

Data must back population policy: Bommai

ANUSHA RAVI @ Bengaluru

BJP National General Secretary CT Ravi on Tuesday jumped onto the population policy bandwagon, saying it is high time that Karnataka followed the path of Uttar Pradesh and Assam in implementing a new population policy. He also warned of scarcity of resources if there is a population explosion.

But Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs and Home Basavaraj Bommai told *The New Indian Express* that the policy is a matter of discussion. "This is a policy matter and we need to take into account various variables. We will need to see data, if there is a need, consult with experts and only then formulate any such a policy. In fact, it is only after discussions with experts and depending on the outcome of such discussions will we be able to consider the next step," he said.

Ravi's warning over 'population explosion', however, seems contradictory to official government data.

According to the Karnataka Economic Survey 2020-21, the State's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) – a measure by which population control is gauged – stood at 1.7 in 2020. While the national target is set at 2.1 to be achieved by 2025, Karnataka's TFR is on a constant decline from 2.5 in 1999 to 1.7 in 2020. It isn't just about TFR, Karnataka is a well-performing State even when it comes to the adoption of birth control practices and sterilisation. P4

TOTAL FERTILITY RATES

National target for 2025/ prescribed value	2.1
Karnataka's achievement in 2020:	1.7
Birth Rate (for 1,000 Population):	17.2

BIRTH CONTROL MEASURES
(Till November 2020)
Sterilisation: 1,02,227
IUD: 1,33,412
Eligible Couples protected: 68.7%

SC WHIPLASH

NEET-PG TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A day after postponing the National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET) for undergraduate medical courses from August 1 to September 12, the Centre on Tuesday said NEET for postgraduate courses will be held on September 11.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya's announcement on the NEET-PG schedule came a day after the Supreme Court had made caustic remarks on the delay in holding counselling for NEET-PG admissions in dental surgery for exams that were held way back in December 2020.

NEET-PG is usually conducted in January each year to fill up about 30,000 seats in various medical colleges across the country. Earlier, 1.74 lakh students had applied to appear for joining PG courses.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced that NEET-UG will be conducted in 13 languages for the first time, with Punjabi and Malayalam being the new additions. Besides, a new exam centre has been opened in Kuwait to facilitate the Indian student community in West Asia, the minister added.

Stop creation of third wave: PM

If we remain cautious and take precautions, we will be able to prevent the third wave... there should be no compromise on this

Narendra Modi, PM

'Need to push health infra'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed the need to rapidly increase beds, oxygen facilities and paediatric care infrastructure in the Northeast.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

SHARING concerns over the rise in Covid infections in the Northeast and elsewhere, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday emphasised the need for strict monitoring and tracking of the mutation and its variants to avert the third wave of the pandemic.

Interacting with chief ministers of North-eastern states, he urged them to understand and catch the warning signals early and take strict action at the micro level, while reemphasising the use of micro containment protocol in dealing with the situation.

Taking note of the big rush of tourists at popular hill stations, the Prime Minister strongly cautioned against crowding while ignoring precautions.

"The third wave (of the pandemic) will not come on its own. The main question in our mind should be how to prevent the third wave. Experts are repeatedly warning against carelessness and crowding as they can lead to massive surge in cases," he pointed out.

At the daily health ministry's briefing, too, officials fretted at the casual approach of the people. Lav Agarwal, joint secretary in the health ministry, said people were talking about the third wave like it was a 'weather update', with many failing to understand that adherence to Covid-appropriate behaviour or the lack of it is what will prevent or cause any wave.

On July 16, Modi will interact with chief ministers of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka and Maharashtra through video-conference. Along with the Northeast, these six states have been reporting high number of the Covid-19 cases. The effective management of the pandemic in these states is seen as crucial to avert the third wave.

On the positive side, better sense prevailed on the Uttarakhand government, as it cancelled the forthcoming *Kanwar Yatra* to avoid crowding. "We decided to cancel the yatra, according topmost priority to human life in view of the threat of a possible third wave," new CM Pushkar Singh Dhami said.

The rise and rise of BJP's Bhupender Yadav

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

WITH the government revamping its Cabinet committees by bringing in younger faces after the big-ticket Cabinet reshuffle, one name stood out from the crowd for his meteoric rise. It was of the powerful BJP national general secretary **Bhupender Yadav**, a key aide of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Though a first-timer in the ministry, Yadav has been made a member of two important panels — Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) and Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development. In his first shot at the ministry during the reshuffle, he straight away got Cabinet rank and is now handling two sensitive portfolios of Environment, Forest Climate Change and Labour and Employment.

Others who have been included in the committees are Smriti Irani, Sarbananda Sonowal, Anurag Thakur and Mansukh Manadaviya.

Curiously, the panels have no representatives from allies.

The CCPA handles issues related to Centre-State relations and examines economic and political issues that require a wider perspective but have no internal or external security implications.

With the exit of Ravi Shankar Prasad and Harsh Vardhan, the only old-timers left in the CCPA are Nitin Gadkari and Rajnath Singh. The reconstituted CCPA comprises Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman, Narendra Singh Tomar, Smriti Irani, Piyush Goyal, Pralhad Joshi, Sarbananda Sonowal, Giriraj Singh, Mansukh Mandaviya and Bhupender Yadav.

Union ministers Arjun Munda, Virendra Kumar, Kiren Rijiju and Anurag Thakur have been included in the reshuffled Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs. The revamped Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs comprises Modi, Singh, Shah, Gadkari, Sitharaman, Tomar, S Jaishankar, Goyal and Dharmendra Pradhan.

EXPRESS READ

Not changing village names: Pinarayi to Siddu

BENGALURU: Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan has written to Opposition leader in the Karnataka Assembly Siddaramaiah, assuring him that the names of villages in Kasargod will not be changed from Kannada to Malayalam. He added that Kerala has taken steps to telecast Kannada medium classes through a local cable channel | P7

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

July 12: **37,03,423 doses**
July 13: **34,10,974 doses**
TOTAL DOSES: 38,50,19,449

NATIONWIDE	JULY 12	JULY 13
Fresh cases	37,154	32,906
Recoveries	39,649	49,007
Deaths	724	2,020

KARNATAKA	JULY 12	JULY 13
Fresh cases	1,386	1,913
Recoveries	3,204	2,489
Deaths	61	48

UNHEALTHY SIGN?

High fuel prices force people to spend less on their health, says SBI report

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

ALARMING inflation, induced by obscenely high petrol prices, has drastically altered consumers' spending patterns as people are now spending less on health and other non-discretionary items such as grocery and utilities, says a new report by SBI.

"Our analysis of SBI card spends indicates spend on non-discretionary health expenditure has been substantially reduced to accommodate increased expenditure on fuel," said Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group chief economic adviser at SBI.

"Such spending has more than crowded out the spending on other non-discretionary items, like grocery and utility services to such an extent that the demand for such products has significantly declined," Ghosh added.

According to SBI's estimates, the share of non-discretionary spending on items such as fuel jumped to 75% in June from 62% in March. Fuel cost hurts more now as the price rises come at a time when many households are already grappling with huge medical bills amid the Covid pandemic and rising commodity prices upsetting their monthly budget.

FUTURE TENSE

"The future outlook hinges on the production increases by OPEC+. The recently cancelled meeting of OPEC+ indicates we are headed towards elevated levels in Brent and this will have cascading impact on fuel inflation in India," the report noted

With every 10% increase in petrol prices, SBI estimates there is a 50 basis point increase in consumer price inflation, the report says.

"Our estimate indicates that during the second wave period (June 2021 over March 2021) the number of districts with deposits outflows might be double than the first wave," Ghosh added.

According to RBI's preliminary estimates, the household financial savings rate in the December 2020 quarter has come down to 8.2% of the GDP from 21% and 10.4% in the previous two quarters.

Going ahead, most analysts expect inflation to remain elevated led by rising fuel prices and firm commodity prices.